BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: CHARLES FRAZIER, retired printer

Charles Frazier, Portuguese, was born in Waianae, September 1, 1907. He was one of seven children. He moved to Kakaako at the age of 5. He remained in Kakaako until 1928.

His father came to Hawaii from Madeira; his mother was born in Maui. His father worked for Honolulu Iron Works.

Charles attended St. Louis College; he left school at the age of 15 to become a printer's apprentice for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. He retired in 1973 after 50 years of service.

As a youngster, Charles served as an altar boy at St. Agnes Church for five years; he also played baseball. He currently makes his home with his second wife in the Liliha area.

TIME LINE

1907	birth: Waianae, Oahu
1912	moved to Kakaako
1922	became a printer's apprentice
1928	moved away from Kakaako
1935	married
1973	retired from Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Tape No. 3-28-1-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Charles Frazier (CF)

January 19, 1978

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

BY: Gael Gouveia (GG)

GG: This is an interview with Charles Frazier in his home in Honolulu. The date is January 19, 1978. The interviewer is Gael Gouveia. Okay, the name of the woman who ran the....

CF: The woman that ran Kakaako Mission, her name was Knott. And the nurse that operated the dispensary down there was Miss Seabury. And did I mention about they having two theatres in Kakaako?

GG: I don't think you did.

CF: There was a theatre there....the first theatre built there was Aloha Theatre. That's way back in the 1920's, now. Early 1920's. And the owner of the theatre was man by the name of Mr. Calhau. Then a group of men got together and they built another theatre block away, corner of Cooke and Queen Street. And it was named the Bell Theatre. But after few years, they closed up and that left only that one theatre, the Aloha Theatre. And Mr. Calhau is the same man that built the Kaimuki Theatre. And he also built the Civic Auditorium. He was the first one to do that. He was a son that's in the real estate business. Kailua. His name is Ernest Calhau.

GG: Ernest? I think I know him.

CF: And there was also in Kakaako two rice mills.

GG: Oh, my goodness. When was this?

CF: And they were....one was on the corner of Queen and Cooke Street. On the Ewa side. And on the Diamond Head side on Queen and Cooke was another rice mill. And they also had a shoyu factory down there. And of course the poi factory.

GG: Did they have two poi factories or only one?

CF: Just only one that I know of.

GG: I think I know---well, did they have a poi shop separate from the poi factory?

CF: Well, they sell poi right in there.

GG: I see.

CF: They would buy this steam taro. And we also bought the poi in there.

GG: Was that behind Magoon Block somewhere?

CF: That was on the Kumalae Block.

GG: Do you remember what street Kumalae Block was?

CF: Queen Street. Kumalae Block and the Magoon Block was on the same street, Queen Street. Opposite one another. (Introduces wife to GG) My wife, Mrs. Frazier. Mrs. Gouveia.

There was also a lumberyard down there. The Allen and Robinson Lumberyard. Oh, this woman I told about, Mrs. Nobriga, her name is Rose Nobriga. She's a widow. She also has a son. That's Bill. William Nobriga.

GG: I see.

CF: There's a man down there. He still lives there. I don't know if you heard of him. Harold Godfrey. He lives across from where the St. Agnes Church used to be on Kawaiahao Street. And that man is still living there, I believe. He's quite an intelligent man. He's way in his 80's, I believe. And he use to be the editor of the Hawaiian paper here. And that man still lives there. Of course I've seen him a few times, but he doesn't remember me because I was just a kid. He was a grown-up fellow. And I think that man has a terrific knowledge of what happened in the early 1918 or 1917, 1916, like that.

GG: I'll have to try and get in touch with him. Did you have other names?

CF: No.

GG: Okay. Well, I wondered if maybe this morning, first of all if you could describe the neighborhood. Tell me about, you know, what the houses were like and where exactly you lived and when.

CF: See, Kakaako and Kewalo district which is together, it was all big homes and very old, you know. And then they all had wooden picket fence. You know, different types of fence. And the yards were beautiful. They kept their yards nice. They had flowers and plants in the yard. The backyard was all full of vegetables, you know. Chickens and stuff like that.

And the people were friendly. They were nice people. And they were all friends with one another. They know each other by their first names, and now I'm going back in the 1920's. The people friendly. They got together. The Hawaiian people, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, they all get together, you know. They were all friendly. It was very nice, very nice place.

GG: Whereabouts was your house?

CF: Where we lived was down toward the end of Kawaiahao Street, going toward Waikiki. And most of the activities there was more on the Cooke Street to South Street where the theatres and all the stores and all that was there.

GG: Did your father own the property or....

CF: No, my dad leased land there. You know, we had a house there and a lease land.

GG: Who did he lease it from?

CF: He leased it from....(Fred Harrison). He was an old contractor here. My father worked for the Honolulu Ironworks. Lot of the people down there worked for Honolulu Ironworks. He also raised vegetables, you know, different types of vegetables. Not for sale but for the family 'cause we had a big family. Then he'd give it to the rest of the families that live around. Gave the neighbors and all that. He had too much of it. Like, you know, pumpkins and string beans and all that, he'd distribute amongst the neighbors and all that.

GG: Did the neighbors then share things with each other?

CF: Yes. They were very nice people. They shared, you know. If they had a lot of stuff, they'd share it, you know.

GG: Do you remember your neighbors, were they mostly Portuguese or....

CF: Well, neighbors was Portuguese, Hawaiians, some Japanese.

GG: And this little area where you live, do you know was it like a block and how many houses were on the block?

CF: Well, I would say that where we lived, across the street from us was the lumberyard. Allen and Robinson Lumberyard. Because the block was long--was from one street to the end of Kawaiahao Street. There was no streets in between, so it was an awful long place there. And I would think that there was about 20 to 25 houses at one time.

GG: Were these 20 homes then, were they single-family homes?

CF: All single-family homes.

GG: I see. And what style were they like? A wood frame house?

CF: Yes, all wooden frames. All the homes there were wooden frames. There was no concrete frames at the time. And the homes were big. They were all big families.

GG: How many rooms did you have?

CF: Well, we had....I think we had three bedrooms and another spare room. And a living room, kitchen, bathroom. But those days, the bathrooms, the restrooms was all outside.

GG: Oh, they were then when you were small?

CF: Yes. (Laughs) Most of the homes at that time--this is going back to the early 1920's--there was no electricity down there. We all had to use kerosene lamps and all. And the cooking was all done in either outside ovens or inside where you'd heat your stove up in wood and all that. You had to chop wood and all that.

GG: And how many family members did you have living in the house at that time?

CF: We had nine.

GG: Nine in yours. And then most of the backyard was given to vegetables?

CF: Vegetables. We had about, I would say about two acres of land.

GG: That much?

CF: And it was all vegetables, sweet potatoes.

GG: Now how did your father get to Kakaako? Do you know where he lived before that?

CF: My dad? Well, before we moved to Kakaako, we lived in Waianae. That's where I was born, Waianae.

GG: And was he working for the sugar plantation?

CF: He was working for the sugar plantation.

GG: Do you know why he decided to move?

CF: No, I don't. Then he left, he came to Kakaako and went to work for the Ironworks.

GG: Now when you were a small boy, were there neighbor kids?

CF: Oh, yes. We played with all of us kids. 'Course I don't see them today. I run across about two, I think, at the most. Two or three every now and then. My age. But the rest of them, some of thems gone away. Lot of the Portuguese families, at the time, early 1920's, there was quite a bit of families that moved over to Santa Clara.

GG: California, you mean?

CF: California, yeah. Never came back. Quite a few of them.

GG: From that area?

CF: From that area.

GG: Well, do you remember now who you played with or how often you got together with---what did you do when you got together with your neighbors?

CF: Well, usually, we played---you know, the boys would play tops. What they call the game of peewee. You don't see that today, you know. And we also played a little baseball. Most little kids, you know. There was a lot of open space then, because there was not too many buildings there as it is now. And we played several games with all the kids, you know. But those games we played, you don't see them today, now. (Laughs)

GG: So where did you folks play? Right in front of the house?

CF: We played up the street, out in the yard, in empty lots. And there was quite a bit of open space there.

GG: The streets, were they dirty roads?

CF: Oh, they all dirt. All dirt. All dusty roads. In the summertime it was dusty and winter time it was muddy, you know, rainy. But we all loved it. It was beautiful. (Laughs)

GG: Did you go to other blocks to play, too?

CF: Yes, we use to go further up to Ward Street. And we also use to go up toward Atkinson Park where the Pohukaina School is located. There was a park there by the name of Atkinson Park. It was across the street from the school. And we also played there. And then until the Mother Waldron Park was built.

GG: Where was the church in relation to your house? St. Agnes?

CF: St. Agnes Church was about two blocks from where we lived.

GG: And did you all walk over there on Sundays?

CF: We all walk, yeah.

GG: And then you had mentioned, now did they have activities at the church for young people?

CF: Yes, we did. We did. Because, you see, the church had a piece of property next door with an old house, and we had dancing, you know. The young people had dancing there. They had parties, and the church

also had little sports activities amongst the children.

GG: Can you tell me a little bit more about the activities? Which ones did you participate in?

CF: Well, we used to have a little dancing in there and we also played a little volleyball. But we couldn't play baseball in there because wasn't big enough.

GG: How often did they have the dances?

CF: Well, we'd have it about once a month.

GG: And who put them on? Do you know?

CF: Well, the priest there was by the name of Father Reginald. He was the original priest there. And he stayed there for an awful long time. He saw all of those children grow up. And he was very active in there. He was very active in Boy Scouts, and he always active in getting the kids together, all the children together. But he was the main.... this Father Reginald, he was there long enough to baptize a boy and a girl and to stay there long enough to marry them. He did it to my sister. Baptize them.

GG: Oh! When you had dances now, did you play the music for the dances?

CF: Yes, we had a phonograph.

GG: Oh, the old kind with the horn on it?

CF: And then we'd all used to get together--all the younger people, boys and girls--get together, we'd organize a group and we'd hold dances at the Knights of Columbus which was next to the cathedral.

GG: I see.

CF: It (Knights of Columbus) isn't there any more. But after we grew up then we started staying away, let the younger kids occupy the place. We went out.

GG: Now, who went to the dances? What kind of people went to the dances?

CF: Well, all the girls and boys, make no difference....Portuguese, Hawaiians.

GG: Was that primarily for Catholic young people?

CF: No, no, no. No.

GG: Or other people from the community could come, too? And then what about now in terms of, you said they had a little bit of volleyball.

CF: Yeah.

GG: Who played volleyball? The same kids that went to the dances?

CF: Girls and the boys. We did. Girls would play, the boys would play. We'd mix it up. Boys and girls.

GG: Now you mentioned that you belong to the Lusitana Portuguese Society.

CF: Yeah, Lusitana Society.

GG: Was that through the church?

CF: No.

GG: Can you tell me about that?

CF: In the Lusitana Society, the San Antonio Society was a mixture. It was a Catholic or Protestant. I guess the original part of it, the intent was that you had to have Portuguese blood to belong to the society. And I noticed at the beginning, all the meetings was held in Portuguese. But then when the younger people start getting in, then they had to change it. You know, they had to use the English language.

GG: Where did they have their meetings?

CF: Their meetings use to be at the....they use to have a building in Alakea Street. The Union Trust that was put up by the members of the Lusitana Society and the San Antonio Society. I believe that's what it was. And the meetings use to be held there at a meeting room downstairs.

GG: Was that more downtown then?

CF: Yes, it was on Alakea Street, between King and Hotel. There's a chop suey house there.

GG: Did many people from Kakaako belong to...

CF: Yes, very much. Yes. And they belong to different....you know, some belong to the San Antonio Society. Some belong to the Lusitana Society. But of course, their meetings were all separate.

GG: Do you know why there were two societies?

CF: No, I have no idea. See, this society is from way back.

GG: When did you belong to it?

CF: I think my dad put me in when I was...must have been about 15 or 16 years old (1922-23).

GG: What did the organization do?

CF: I don't know. You know, I use to go to meetings, and I didn't understand what it was all about.

(Laughter)

CF: But it was sort of a benefit, I think. If you was a member and you was working, you were sick, they would pay you so much. They would give you so much.

GG: And your father had belonged to it for a long time, too?

CF: My father did.

GG: And when did you stop going to meet?

CF: Well, I left. After I became of age, I decided to drop out. My father had passed away, so I decided that I didn't want to belong to it.

GG: Yeah. Did you go to the meetings with your father or with friends?

CF: Well, I use to go with my father, and also there were my brother-in-laws, my older sisters' husbands. They belonged to it.

GG: They were married already?

CF: Yeah.

GG: What about any of the neighbors? Did they go?

CF: Some of the neighbors did, yeah. But those societies, mostly the older people would go. And the younger people had a hard time because they didn't understand too much about....you know, some of them spoke Portuguese. I understood it, but not too much of it, you know, like the older people did. So I don't know. The younger people didn't attend.

GG: When did you get together with your friends? After school? What was your day like?

CF: Well....time when I was younger, I was going to Pohukaina School. And I'd come home and I'd do my chores at home. I had to water the vegetables, get the wood ready for cooking, help my mother with the chickens. Then afterwards, when everything was done, then I'd get out with the kids, and play with them, with the rest of the boys.

GG: Did you go off to find friends to play with or did they come to your house?

CF: No, no. They were right in the area.

GG: I see.

CF: We know just where to find them. Either the empty lot or hang out in the streets or I don't know, lumberyard, you know. They were all there.

GG: Did you all have similar kinds of chores or did you feel like you had to work harder than the other boys?

CF: Well, I had more chores than they had. (Laughs) Because we had a bigger place and that's we had more things....you know, more vegetables, chickens, stuff like that. The other kids didn't have too much of that stuff.

GG: Do you remember who some of your closest friends were during that period?

CF: Well, they're all gone. I can't remember some of their names. Like I say, I see about two or three of them, and I still can't think of their last names.

GG: But were they like from the houses right next door, mostly, that you played with?

CF: Yeah. Right in that area. Yeah.

GG: That block?

CF: Yeah.

GG: And then you went to St. Louis College for Boys after that?

CF: After that, I went to St. Louis.

GG: Now how old were you when you went there?

CF: I was about 12.

GG: And then how did you get there? Or was that when it was downtown?

CF: No, see, St. Louis College was at College Walk down where there's Aala Park. And we walked to school. We used to walk to school.

GG: How far was it from your house?

CF: Well, say it's easy it's three miles.

GG: Oh my goodness. That far?

CF: Could be that much. But, you see, we were able to ride the---at

the time there was streetcars, two-man cars, you know. And we pay half a fare one way and half the other way. Five cents. But most of the....you'd have to walk from there all the way up to Thomas Square in order to get the streetcar. So we walked the rest of the way. Well, the people there, all the people that used to go to town or, say, they use to go to the old market in town. And they'd all walk. They never did ride the streetcars. They all walked. Downtown and walk back home. See, there wasn't too many cars there. People didn't own cars.

GG: Did your family have a car?

CF: No.

GG: They didn't. I guess it would be later when you would get home from school?

CF: Yeah. I think the school got through at 2:30, and about 3:30 I was home. Then I'd get right into my chores, whatever I was supposed to do.

GG: And how long did it take you to do your chores usually?

CF: Oh, well, it took me about, say, about hour and a half, two hours. Lot of the rest of the boys wanted me to come out and play, so they'd come and give me a hand. Water the place. And all was by hand, you know. Those old gallon cars with a funnel. And you'd water... (Laughs)...an awful lot of vegetables, you know, all by hand. If you needed wood, we would chop the wood. But the boys would help me in order to get out and play soon enough because after supper we couldn't get out.

GG: They had curfew?

CF: After supper we had to have our bath, get inside and do our homework and stuff like that.

GG: Did you ever go and help the other boys do their chores?

CF: Well, they didn't have any.

GG: Oh.

(Laughter)

CF: In that area that we were staying, I was the only one that had it.

GG: Yeah. Did they help you almost everyday?

CF: Almost everyday.

GG: So then you had a little play time before it was time to go in to supper?

CF: That's right.

GG: Did friends or relatives ever come over and have supper with you?

CF: Yes, there was a lot of family down in that area that my father's side. And they'd come over. My father's nieces, nephews, you know, just come over. Sometimes they would have dinner. And they'd always come over to visit. You know,they were in that area, they'd come over and talk nights.

GG: Was this during the week nights?

CF: Week nights, Saturday nights.

GG: Now when they came over, did they mostly talk story or....

CF: Oh yeah. My mom and dad sit down and talk to them. They were much older than we were, and the rest of them---well, they bring their children. We'd be playing out in the yard.

GG: Did the old folks play cards?

CF: Yeah. They did. They did.

GG: Do you remember what games they played?

CF: What is that Portuguese card game? Kamau?

GG: Yeah.

CF: Bisca, bisca. Bisca. I guess it's the same as kamau, I don't know. But you know, in the Magoon Block and around that area, there were groups of people that, you know, the Portuguese, Hawaiians, they'd all be playing that Portuguese cards. And, see a bunch of Portuguese men, they'd all sit down there and playing a little cards. And Hawaiians and Portuguese in another bunch, you know, playing kamau or something like that. Going up the side of the street, you know, away from where the traffic was.

GG: Just sitting on the side?

CF: They're just sitting out there, and they'd come home, have dinner, take a bath, go out there till about nine o' clock.

GG: And was that mostly family clusters?

CF: Well, some are families, some are our friends, people in the neighborhood gang. They were very friendly, you know.

GG: And then what kind of things did you do together as you were getting older with family or friends as far as cultural celebrations?

CF: Well, you know, all of us would look forward to the Holy Ghost. Oh, gosh, that was the big thing, you know. And then we'd go to the Punchbowl, came all the Holy Ghost. The Kalihi Holy Ghost and all these young teenagers get together. Like say if Kakaako is going to have their Holy Ghost, about seven weeks before the final, they would have all kind of activities. Dances and games. Then go to Punchbowl one, they had the same thing, you know, every night. So we were pretty active. And as we grew up, all the time grew up, well, we start going out, you know. Children from different districts, like Kakaako, became friends, you know. Get together. We'd hold dances, little parties.

GG: Where did you go up to have those dances?

CF: We use to go to like, say, we'd have---my sister would invite friends over to our place and then have a dance, see. My mother would make a cake or something like that, you know. Then the other girl, this other boy would have a party at his house the following week. You know, then we'd go to that.

GG: Oh.

CF: So that's the way we did. And we did that with the Kakaako---with the Kakaako people, the Punchbowl people. The girls and boys, they all get together.

GG: How did you get to know the other people?

CF: Through the Holy Ghost.

GG: Yeah. Did only Portuguese people participate in the Holy Ghost?

CF: No, no. Portuguese, Hawaiians used to participate in it. I don't know whether outside of the Portuguese people were members, but they all used to get there. Hawaiian people, Chinese people. Wait for the Holy Ghost and celebrate. Eat this Portuguese sweetbread.

(Laughter)

GG: Then, now, did the Japanese people hold like bon dances now and then?

CF: Yes, they did. They did. And there was a Japanese school down there and they had bon dances over there.

GG: Did you ever go and watch those?

CF: Well, we watched, yeah. See our friends, Japanese boys and girls dancing. It's beautiful. Very beautiful.

GG: Were there very many Filipinos people living [in Kakaako], too?

CF: There were some Filipinos, but they were in the minority. Very small minority.

GG: Whereabouts did they live or do you know?

CF: Well, they were spread out. They were mostly in the area down toward the Pohukaina School. They'd come live there, mostly they lived there. Tenement houses, like that.

GG: Were those like two-story?

CF: Yeah, two-stories. Like all wooden structure. And then there was some other nationalities lived there but mostly the Filipinos would gather around that one spot.

GG: Did they have any kind of cultural celebration?

CF: No, not that I can think of. 'Course, like those days, I think the Hawaiians participate more on the Kamehameha Day, you know. There was more, I would say more than it is now because now they mainly haole, you know, it's a mixture of different. You know those days was purely Hawaiians, you know, and everybody would gather and celebrate with them.

GG: How did they celebrate Kamehameha Day back those years?

CF: Well, they would have music, luaus. Then they'd wait for the big parade, you know. But the Hawaiians would celebrate, usually give all the leis.

GG: And where did they do that?

CF: They do that in their homes or....in the area where they live.

GG: Sort of private luaus?

CF: Well, all people could go if they were invited. They'd go. Most of the neighbors around here were invited.

GG: Did you go to any of the luaus?

CF: Oh yes. I liked it.

GG: Can you tell me about it?

CF: We use to eat that poi. Of course, it wasn't like it is today, you know. Those days, all open area, you know. And us kids use to get in there and just get on that poi, and that pork. (Laughs)

GG: Whereabouts from your house to where you went to....

CF: Well, most of the luaus was down more toward the end of Kawaiahao Street. There's quite a bit of Hawaiians there. They would give quite a bit of luaus.

GG: Would several Hawaiian families get together to make the luau?

CF: Yeah. There's not one family. You all come together.

GG: Yeah.

CF: See, because there was a lot of space there. They can put tents up, tables all over the place. Not congested as it is now.

GG: And about how many people then from the community would go?

CF: Oh, I'd say about couple of hundred go around there. People from the outside be invited over, too. Neighbors all invited. Neighbors and their children.

GG: Sounds exciting. (Laughs) Where did your mother do her shopping from where you lived?

CF: Well, my mother, she used to walk to town, you know. And there was a great big grocery store on Maunakea and King Street. She did all her ordering there and they deliver it. But there was also a few stores in Kakaako that maybe you wanted something in a hurry, well, just go over there, buy it, you know. Just to serve the neighborhood, the stores around here just serve the neighborhood. But if there big quantity, like you have a big family and you had to have an awful lot of food, you know, then you'd have to go to town and have them deliver it. You know, order, deliver it.

GG: Where are the stores in Kakaako that you used for in a hurry?

CF: Well, there was one down at Queen Street, and there was another big one. Two, three, in fact in the area of between Ward and Cooke Street.

GG: Did that area have a name?

CF: Well, it's the Kakaako area. It's Queen Street. And besides the stores, they have a meat market down there. And they'd sell meat, fish, and all that. Anyway, there was enough stores there to supply the people if they wanted something. Most of the people bought their groceries, food stuff all from the stores.

You take my mother and dad, and lot of the other people around there, had big families and they'd go to town, have their stuff delivered, because they delivered. And when they want lot of meats, well, they'd go down to that market. There was a metropolitan meat market in town. There was that King Market down there down Kekaulike Street. It's still there, that old market. Yeah, they used to do that. Buy it that way.

GG: Do you remember the names of the little stores in Kakaako?

CF: One store, I know. I can remember that store. That's where the Liberty Bank is located now. Ward and Queen. Is Chang. Chang's Store. That's the only one. The other one, I don't know.

GG: Did you ever go to the market for your mother?

CF: Yeah. They run errands and I used to run errands for the neighbors.

GG: How did they ask you to run the errands for them?

CF: Well, they used to call me and ask me to go buy loaf of bread, something like that. But most of the people bake their bread. But then when they run off, like they wanted stuff like crackers or rice like that, you know, just enough to cook, they'd call me.

GG: You must have been a pretty dependable boy then, huh? Did they have children of their own that could have...

CF: Well, some of them, those that asked me to run the errands, if they had, they had very small. Some of them, they can't even talk. But you know, most of the children,they was very obedient. The families was very strict. Yeah. So when they'd ask me to go to the store, I'd quick do it and I'd run off to the store and run back again.

GG: Did you have to do that very often?

CF: Well, quite a bit, yeah. In fact, there was about, I'd say four neighbors around our area that some of them didn't have children, or children were so small, I did most of their errands, running around. There was a iceplant down there, Oahu Ice, you know, right where the news building is, the Hawaii Newspaper Agency. Right across there. The building is still there. And go down and take the little cart and go along back to the neighbors, my family.

GG: Did you have the cart at the house?

CF: Yeah.

GG: What was the cart like?

CF: Oh, my father made a cart with wheelbarrow wheels. We'd push it that way. See, he made it that way because....I had to take the eggs down every Saturday to the market.

GG: Oh, you raised enough chickens?

CF: We raised chickens, because, you see, what my parents did, the vegetables was for us and they'd give to the neighbors and family. But the chickens,

well, we made a little money out of it through the eggs, you know. You see, my job every Saturday to take this big cart with this big wheelbarrow wheels. We always put all the eggs in there and wheel it down to the Metropolitan Meat Market. And they'd get the money and bring it home. So that was the spare money that we used to have. Because those days, the family was big, my father was the only one working, it's pretty hard. So we raised our own vegetables.

GG: What is it? You said string beans and pumpkins and....

CF: String beans, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, corn, and cabbage. All of that.

GG: Tomatoes?

CF: Tomatoes. Irish potatoes. We didn't buy no vegetables.

GG: That was a good way to save.

CF: And my mother baked her own bread.

GG: Did she have the Portuguese oven on the side?

CF: No, we had a stove run by wood. Wood.

GG: Then it must have been quite a distance to take those eggs. Did many break on the way?

CF: Well, you see, the market was supplying me with this cartons. If I'd take 20 dozens down, then I'd bring home about 20, 21 cartons home back.

GG: What if you ran into friends along the way?

CF: I did. I met some friends one time, they were playing marbles by Kawaiahao Church. And I decided to play with them, moving around, bumping the truck (cart), several eggs gave way. (Laughs) So I had to come home and tell my mother that there was a few eggs missing, you know.

GG: Then what did she say?

CF: Well, she gave me a lecture, you know, that I had a job to do and I should have done it first.

(Laughter)

CF: Well, that was a lesson for me. After that, I decided to take the eggs, then play, you know. But the families there, they didn't beat up their children too much, you know. Oh, the children get spanking and all that, but people were pretty strict then. The children really obeyed.

GG: Were you aware of any rough kids in the Kakaako area?

CF: Well, there used to be more in the Magoon Block area. But some of them were kind of rough, but I don't think some of them was. Children (like) some of these children today, you know. I don't think they were as rough as that. I don't say that children today are any different than....but there's some of these young boys and girls, the way they act, you know, well, get this drugs and stuff like that. Didn't see that those days. We didn't even hear of it. We didn't hear of marijuana, we didn't hear of anything.

GG: What did the boys do as they got older?

CF: Well,as the boys got older, a lot of them participated in different sports. On the outside. And a lot of them, like me didn't finish high school, went to work. And when they got old enough, they got married, moved out. They start moving out.

GG: When was it that you dropped out of school?

CF: I dropped out of school 1922.

GG: What that your tenth grade year?

CF: Tenth (ninth) grade. I was 15.

GG: And what kind of word did you do?

CF: I went to work for the Star Bulletin.

GG: That's right. You said you worked all the way straight. How did you get your job at the Star Bulletin?

CF: Well, I used to come home from school and I used to pass there, pass the Star Bulletin. I'd stand there and watch those fellows printing, you know. I got fascinated. And across the street from us, there was a boy that was about a couple of years older than I was and he was working there.

So one day when I'd come home from school, he says, "Would you like to work? I'm going to be promoted."

So I says, "Yeah, I'd like to work."So I went home and told my mom.

My mom says, "Well, you wait till your father comes home."

So my dad came home and he said, "No, you don't quit school. I want you to go through school."

I said, "But I like printing. I think it's very good. I'm fascinated, and I'm sure I can learn."

So he says, "I'll tell you what I'll do." He says, "I'll let you go to work if you go to night school."

So I says, "All right."

He says, "But you don't leave night school until I tell you to."

I says, "Okay."

So I left school,went to work, and I went to YMCA night school. And after I got through with YMCA, I went to the Honolulu Business College. That was located Fort Street.

And after three years I told my dad, "I think I have enough schooling."

He says, "No." He says, "I didn't tell you to leave school yet."

(Laughter)

CF: But anyway, I worked and learned a trade and I started to work 44 hours a week, six dollars a week.

GG: Oh my goodness.

(Laughter)

GG: What year was this?

CF: 1922. But I stayed there 50 years.

GG: When you first went to work there, who taught you the trade?

CF: See, they didn't have a training program like they have now. At that time, you would do it difficulty but men would tell you to do. And you wasn't allowed to touch type. And you'd clean up the machines and sweep up the floor. Bring the ice. But if you wanted to learn, it was up to you to stay in after work, you know, and try to do different things that you felt you could do.

GG: This was over and above your 44 hours a week?

CF: That's right.

GG: I see.

CF: I had to go down on Sundays and so after a year or so I'd go down Sundays and do a job. Like an advertising job. Like say, Liberty House ad, you know. I'd set it up, take a proof of it and then break it up and put it back in for the journeymen. Wipe the ink off. Then I'd show the foreman the proof and then he'd make these corrections. That's the way you learn the trade. That's the way I learned my trade.

GG: So about how many extra hours a week did you put in?

CF: Well, sometimes I use to put in about two hours in the evening. And on Sundays, I'd put in between five and six hours.

GG: And then how long did it take you to get where they would actually let you set type?

CF: Well, about three years and I was able to set type. See, in those days, there was a hot type, which they call "hot type." They don't have that now. They have what they call "cold type." You first had all these machines, And we had to serve our apprenticeship six years. Because we had to set type, we had to learn the Linotype machine. We had to go to the press room. We had to do all of that work. Whereas you don't do that now. When you go to work, you go to the press room, that's all you're going to learn is the press. But my time, we had to learn the whole thing. So it took six years.

GG: Who were the bosses there? Your foreman?

CF: Well, my foreman was an old-timer. Portuguese fellow by the name of Abel Nasciemento.He lived in Punchbowl Street. And I worked under him for several years. And he had been working there for 50 some odd years. And he went on a semi-retirement, and I replaced him.

GG: Oh, for heaven's sake. How many years was this after you started?

CF: Well, I think when I started to work at age 15; I think when I replaced him I was about 40 some odd years old.

GG: He was a good teacher then?

CF: He was a very good man. Very good man.

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

CF: Yeah, Mr. Nasciemento was very good, very nice man. He was a well liked man. He was a very good printer. He had quite a family, too.

GG: How many other boys were working at about the time you started?

CF: The time I was working, there was only two of us boys. All the rest was all journeymen.

GG: Were you both Portuguese boys?

CF: Yeah. Both Portuguese boys.

GG: And then can you---it took you, you said, about three years till you got to the point where you could start printing.

CF: Start printing, yeah.

GG: And then how did your training progress from then?

CF: Well, then they start moving you from one department to the other, you see. But I became a journeyman before six years. And 'course at that time, the pay adjustment wasn't---the pays wasn't adjusted. If the journeyman was a very good man, he'd make more than the other one that wasn't considered as good as he was. Then after few years it came to be uniform, you know.

GG: How did the salaries range for journeymen at that time?

CF: Well, at that time, the journeymen was making about $35 a week. During the early 1920's, they were getting about $25 a week. Then in the 1930's, they became $35. That was the journeymen's pay down here which at that time was very good.

GG: Good money at that time.

CF: Yeah. But see, San Francisco was paying a little more. So when a man come in from San Francisco, he wouldn't come in for 35 (dollars). So then they'd had to adjust it to meet his demand, see. So they had to pay the local journeymen the same thing.

GG: Was there a printer's union somewhere along the line? When did that develop or do you remember?

CF: That printer's union was here before 1900.

GG: Oh, my goodness, way back?

CF: And one of the charter members which is a Portuguese--Manuel Jardin. He just passed away couple of weeks ago. He was a charter member of that union. And it's affiliated with the International Union. It's International Typographical Union. And then this is the Local 37 down here. And it's a very old union.

GG: Did you have to join the union when you first started to work or....

CF: Well, at that time back in the 1920's, you didn't have to, you know. But it was best to because the union also gave you instruction books. They taught you, and you took lessons from the book that International will send you. But now you have to belong to the union in order to work. See, because the so-called merge down there with the Advertiser and the Star Bulletin. And it's operated by Hawaii Newspaper Agency. And the contract so reads that you'll have to be a union member to be a printer.

GG: Now you said there were two of you boys that were starting out together. How many typesetters were there? Was that what your job classification was called at that time? A typesetter or....

CF: No, we were apprentices. But this other boy, he was advanced. You know he was there before I was. And he was doing a little more handling the type more which I wasn't. Then when he got promoted up, then I started going in distributing type. You had to learn the case, where all the letters go in. That's when you start to type. And then after about six months or so, then they'd settle it and you'd set lines, you know. Like headlines and stuff like that. That's how you started.

GG: And how many men were working in there at that time in that department?

CF: Well, we had about---at the time we had about eight Linotype machines. That's eight operators. And the ad setters was about six. Make-up was about five. So 11. That's the composing room.

GG: And you've really seen changes take place there?

CF: Yeah, I saw terrific changes.

GG: Can you talk about some of them a little bit?

CF: Well, lot of those stories on page one, at the time, my time when I was young, was all hand-set types. The headings, all the small headings and all that. And then the machine came out. And then they improve the machine where it could set those bigger types, see. And that was big change, because then there was so much of the hand-set type going out of the window. It wasn't being used no more. Then they had what they call "a Ludlow" which you would set type and cast a line or something like that. That was another big change, and we thought, "My gosh, what's going to happen," you know. Then they had few other machines.

But then this change now that they have now, this is the biggest. This is the biggest change that they've ever had. Because in a newspaper plant now, there's no such thing as hot metal, you see. No hot metal at all. Even on the press we used to put a hot metal cast on the press where the page is. It's no more. It's all like that type that's being set, stories have been made up in a pages and the ads that's been set to put in the paper is all automatic. All comes out with the computers, (Line 'o' films) and stuff like that, all comes out written form. They center that one, they type it out on the teletypesetter, it comes out in the cold. Then it goes to the computer. And it comes out all in words. And all a fellow has to do now is cut it, paste it up. He's a paster. That's what he is now. See, he's not a printer any more. And if a correction is made, send it back to the machine, bring back the correction, just paste it on. Then they sent it to the engraving department, they make a copper plate out of it and it goes on the press. And that's it.

GG: So the job has been really...

CF: This is the most fantastic change I've ever seen.

GG: Did it put very many people out of work?

CF: Yes, they did. See, when I retired 1953, there was still on the hot type. Partially. And they had about close to 300 people. Today, they have about 150, and they have too many people. This is just fantastic. It's just....it's just a complete change. And now, you know, if a girl or boy wants to become a printer, all they go in there, within three months they'll be able to do the work. It took me six years.

(Laughter)

CF: Almost six years. See, because in a hot type it's harder. You got to go through more things than you do in the cold type. In the cold type you hardly touch anything. The machines are doing everything.

GG: Can we go back a little bit now to say when you were active with Kakaako Mission? Can you tell me a little bit more about that? You told me the name of the woman who ran it. Now was that, you said, close to St. Agnes Church?

CF: Kakaako Mission?

GG: Yeah.

CF: No. St. Agnes Church was further down. About, I'd say about five blocks down. Kakaako Mission was located just inside of South Street. On the town side, this is a little lane there that called "Mission Lane." And Kakaako Mission was located there. And it was for all the children. Well, the grown-ups participated in it. They had their own activities. But it mostly children. You know, after school, you go there in the early part of the evening, you go there, you know. And this Mrs. Knott was run...

GG: Was she a <u>haole</u> woman? Was it a <u>haole</u> couple that had that?

CF: Yeah. She was. I can't remember her husband. But she has a son that's living. He used to work for the circulation department, Hawaii Newspaper Agency. I don't know whether he still works there. And we used to call him "Red Knott." And she also had two daughters. But she was the one that head it. I don't know how they operated. I guess it was a County operated or something like that.

GG: I wondered if it was that or could it have been connected with Salvation Army somehow? You don't know for sure how they got their money?

CF: I don't know.

GG: Yeah. But now it was called Kakaako Mission. Was it a house or built like a church or....

CF: Well, no, it was a great hall. Just a great big hall. And they had a few rooms around where they used to hold meetings, I guess. But it was a great big hall where you can play volleyball, a little indoor baseball. Big enough, you know.

GG: Indoor baseball, you said. What is that?

CF: Yeah. It was bigball. You know the bigball that they throw underhand. You know. (Laughs)

GG: And the hall was big enough so it was a soft---

CF: Yeah, yeah. Softball, you know. It wasn't for grown-ups, you know, because the grown-ups would hit it all over the place, you know. But this was, well, younger children, you know. About ten. You know, about ten, nine years old. You couldn't hit the ball far enough. But it was quite a big hall.

GG: About how many kids went there everyday after school or....

CF: Well, there was quite a bit. Quite a bit.

GG: Was it from all over the Kakaako area?

CF: All over. We see all over. Not much of the Japanese children, because they used to go to Japanese school. But like for us, you know, Portuguese, Hawaiians, Chinese kids would all....if we wanted to go there, today we'd go there. If we wanted to stay in the park, we play, we stay in the park. But there were all the children there.

GG: And it was just more or less a place to go to have fun or did they have organized activities or....

CF: Well, they used to organize it. I think some of the bigger girls used to have a singing club or something like that, you know. But the children was mostly baseball, indoor baseball, you know, where children could participate. But it wasn't anything---not anything big activity, you know, wise. You know, it wasn't anything big. But it was very nice place. Very nice place. The family was satisfied their children were there.

GG: So that was someplace that they were allowed to go to play?

CF: Yeah, yeah.

GG: What about to some of the parks, now. Were many children allowed to go and play at the parks, too?

CF: Oh, yes. Just everybody go in the park and play. Everybody's go in the park and play. It was quite a great big area. And we used to call them the Atkinson Park, and you could play baseball in one corner and you had swings and slide lines and all of that stuff in the other side of the park. And there was always enough room for the bigger boys and the smaller boys over there. The bigger girls there enough room there. And there was always activity. Always some of the children around there. Mostly the bigger boys. Mostly the smaller ones that go to Kakaako Mission, you know. And the bigger boys would play out in the park.

GG: Did you play sports when you got bigger?

CF: I did. I participated in baseball and a little football, yeah. I participate mostly in baseball, because in football I was little too light, you know. Those boys are much bigger. Although I did participate, but I sat on the bench most of the time.

(Laughter)

CF: But in baseball, I did. I did quite a bit.

GG: Which league or group did you play with?

CF: Well, we used to have at that time, City and County used to have the City-Wide League. And there was also another league they used to call the Jungle League because all go by names of animals. You know, the Tigers and the Bears and stuff like that. And then the....Catholic churches, parishes throughout Honolulu, you know,like Kalihi and Kewalo and Kaimuki. We had a Catholic League.

GG: That was the Catholic Youth Organization?

CF: Well, it was something like the CYO, yeah. And we participated in baseball.

GG: Now did you play then for CYO as well as for the Jungle League?

CF: Yeah, Jungle League, City-Wide League.

GG: Did they have them at different times?

CF: Well, they had games, like say, with some of the teams would play at Dole Field. Some would play at Kamehameha Field. And other teams that play at Kaimuki Park.

GG: But how did you participate in three leagues?

CF: Well, the leagues at different times, you see. Now this league would open up probably early part of the year, then the other league would open up the other part.

GG: What position did you play?

CF: I played outfield.

GG: Do you remember who the coaches were?

CF: I know one league that I played. I can't remember what league it was. A fellow by the name of Butler, he used to be an old baseball player. And he was a police officer. In those days was (policeman would) ride, get on a horsebacks and all, even on a bicycle. He was one of the coaches for one of teams I played. Another team I played....gee, I can't remember. I think was this fellow by the name of Mr. Martin. Old fellow. He worked for E. Hall and Son or something.

GG: Do you remember why you decided to join the league or did somebody say, "Hey, let's go play baseball over here"?

CF: Well, some of the teams, like the Catholic Organization, well, I was right in with the boys so we all get together and form the team. But the Jungle League and the City-Wide like that, well, some boys that knew me ask me if I would like to play for their team. That's how I got to play for their team. 'Cause was boys from all different section that play on this team. Not from one place. But I was pretty active, you know, as far as baseball was concerned.

GG: For during what period? Do you remember? Was this in the 1930's?

CF: No, when I played baseball, I was in the....I think the last time I played I was 21 years old. You see, what happened was that I got hurt in a football game, and I was operated. And so I couldn't play any more. And I had a tendency to be afraid everytime the ball was thrown. And this fellow that was a lawyer here and he was a baseball coach, you know, he used to coach Brady's team. Fellow by the name of George Hanneburg.

GG: Hanneburg?

CF: Yeah. He still lives in Los Angeles. But he was a local guy. He was a lawyer here. And he was interested in baseball. And he came up to me, he said, "Gee, I'm sorry," he says. He says, "But it's best that you don't play any more because you just don't have it in you any more. You are operated, you're afraid." And he says, "It's going to do more harm, it's going to do you more harm than good," he said. So it was the last time I played baseball. I was about 21 years old.

GG: And when did you get married and how did you meet your wife?

CF: Well, I was married twice. My first marriage was Portuguese girl. Kaimuki. Got married 1935. And the war [World War II] came on. And I was deferred from service because of my job as a printer. And being that the Navy and the Army took over the printing plants, 'cause we were printing confidential stuff. We were printing Hawaiian money and stuff like that.

GG: Oh, the newspaper printed the Hawaiian money?

CF: Yeah.

GG: I didn't realize that.

CF: Advertiser and the Star Bulletin. All the stories that came out in the paper were censored. They had a man and a couple of people in there censoring. And then the blackout came, you know. And I had no children. So it was one of those things. You know, after eight years of marriage and we got separation and divorced. Then I stayed single for about 14 years. Then I thought, "Well, it's about time that I settled down." (Laughs) And I met my wife. My wife was working in town, restaurant in town. I used to go in there and lunch, met her, marry her.

She has a son. He lives here, and that's his picture. He's married and he's divorced. He married Portuguese girl. Married a girl from Kailua. He got three children. That's [refers to picture] his oldest daughter. She's attending college in Wisconsin.

(Laughter)

CF: So that's the way it ends. I've been married to my wife for over 20 years.

GG: Oh, my goodness.

CF: Never was a father, never had children. I got so many nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces that....

GG: (Laughs) Didn't have to happen.

CF: ...I mistrack sometimes. I got a grandnephew that's a reporter for the Star Bulletin.

GG: Oh, for goodness sake.

CF: Lee Gomes. That's Carl's nephew. Carl Denis' nephew.

GG: Well, I think we've about covered pretty much today, so...

CF: Well, I hope I was of some help to you.

GG: I think you were.

END OF INTERVIEW.

Tape No. 3-37-2-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Charles Frazier (CF)

Manoa Elementary School, Honolulu, Hawaii

February 15, 1978

BY: Gael Gouveia (GG)

GG: This is the second interview with Mr. Charles Frazier at Manoa Elementary School. The date is February 15, 1978, and the interviewer is Gael Gouveia. And, as I said, we read over the transcript already and came up with some more questions for you.

CF: Okay.

GG: So, I wonder if today, first of all, we could talk a little bit more about the neighborhood in which you lived and your family. You had mentioned that you grew vegetables and shared them with people. Who did you give the vegetables to?

CF: Well, my dad--we had about, I would say about, about a couple of acres and most of it was in vegetables. And, of course, we had the separate section of chickens. And, our vegetables were grown for our purpose only. Well, we use. But we had quite a bit of it. And, my dad when he, liked he picked the potatoes, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, he shared with the neighbors. You know, give them so much, you know, all that. Because, everybody in the area was poor families, you know. And, they all have large families. So, my father always shared it with the people around the place there.

GG: Well, do you recall who they were or where they lived?

CF: Well, let's see...no, I don't, because, of course this is over 50 years ago, you know. And, you know, the families are Hawaiians and Japanese family, Portuguese families. And, I can't think of the names, that is...

GG: But, they lived right...

CF: Where they live within in the area of I'd say about two blocks.

GG: I see. And, he had enough so that he shared often?

CF: He enough to share with the people around there and with our family. My mother's family and his family.

GG: Did other people share anything with your family in return?

CF: Well, yes, they did because if say some of the people there like the Hawaiian people have a little luau or something like that, they would share it with us. And, lot of the Portuguese people there that made sweetbread or something like that. You know, the different occasions, which my mother didn't make at the time. But, they would share it with us. The Japanese people would share it with us. With Japanese food. Something like that.

GG: Do you remember a particular kind of Japanese food that they shared with you?

CF: Well, what I can remember and what I like best was the sushis. You know? That's the thing I liked best and that's the only thing I can remember of, you know. The rest of the stuff I didn't care to eat so the rest of the sisters and brother eat, you know.

GG: But, if a Japanese lady made plenty sushi one day...

CF: One day, yeah, they make an awful lot of it, you know.

GG: And then, she would some...

CF: See, they have different occasions like some sort of celebration or something like that.

GG: And then, they would bring some extra to your house?

CF: They would share it, yeah.

GG: Okay. Did neighbors share any other kinds of things, like tools or baby clothes?

CF: Well, in lots of cases there, people would. They would--I imagine they did. Like before babies born or something like that. They would, you know, they had a lot of children. They would share some of their clothes, you know, that the children outwear. And, the men there would also help, when they would build--say, there was a lot of chicken coops, you know. People had those days, you know. And, they would help one another build. They would come over and help build.

GG: Do you remember particular occasions of that?

CF: No, I don't. In fact, I can remember when one of my father's nephews was building some coops of rabbits. He had rabbits and all. And, men around the place would come over and help after work. In the evening, help them build. And then, they were very nice that way. The people all... But, of course I'm talking in the area of just a couple of blocks.

GG: Right. Do you remember the time period? Approximately. Would this have been in the 1920's?

CF: I would say---I would go back to about 1919, 1920.

GG: Another thing now, at about this same period then, do you remember what kind of games or what kinds of things you did with the neighborhood children?

CF: Well, yeah, we played top. Spin the top. And, we played marbles. And, we also played little baseball. Little kids, just throwing the ball around, batting the ball around. We also played a game that I don't see today. They called it "pee-wee." You hardly see that. I haven't seen it. And, we had all those things to play.

GG: Right. Now, do you remember when you children were playing these things, were your parents visiting with each other or...

CF: Well, it was right in--see, there were no parks there at the time where we lived, you know. And then, we'd play out in the street. There was no cars anyway, mostly horses and drays. And, we played out in the streets. And the family would go over, the children like that.

GG: But, did say, if the Japanese lady came with some sushi did she stay and visit with your family for awhile?

CF: Yes, she did. Yeah, she did. Yeah.

GG: Did they just sit down and talk story?

CF: They just visit. Talk. Sit down and talk, yeah. And, another thing I'll say that the people around the area there in the summertime like that, would get all the children together, and all the parents would go to--the mothers would go down with them. And, we'd walk down to what is now Ala Moana Park. And, at the time the beach was quite further out to the road there. And, let us swim around there while, we couldn't swim but they just let us fool around the water there--play around the water. And, they take the sandwiches and all that. And, we'd all share it. With all of the people around there. All the mothers would go down with the children. And, they would all share it.

GG: About how old were you at this time?

CF: Oh, I would say about 9, 10.

GG: And do you remember approximately how many kids would go?

CF: Oh, I would say, easy 15 to 20.

GG: And, how many moms?

CF: All the moms they would sit down and talk while their kids would be playing around.

GG: Yeah. And, this would be like Portuguese and Japanese and Hawaiians?

CF: Portuguese, Japanese, Hawaiians.

GG: Hm. They went together as a group?

CF: Yeah, all together.

GG: And, it was ones that just lived right close to each other...

CF: That's right. That's right. Within the two block area.

GG: Could you, I wonder describe what your day was like, say when you were nine or ten years old.

CF: Well, to begin with I had to---well, when come home from school, that is we were in school. And, my first job was to get some of the food for the rabbits. Then, that is on the time of--in the season of this Algaroba trees, I think, they had this what they call the kiawe beans. I think it's the Algaroba tree. And, all of us kids would pick it. Pick it up. And, we'd save it. We'd put it in bags. And, we'd sell it to different companies that had horses like I think HC&D now, it was known at the time as a Hackfield and Company is the American Factors. But, there's a Union Feeds company that had horses and drays. Lewers and Cooke had. And, what this, another place was Hustace-Peck. I think that's HC&D today. I'm not sure. But, they had drays and horses. And, we'd sell it for them for the horses.

GG: And, where were these trees located?

CF: These trees was located along, all along the Ala Moana--where Ala Moana Boulevard is. Into that area there that's, it's called a--I think it's a Ward Property. And the trees are located in there.

GG: And did you have to climb into the trees or just pick them up from the ground?

CF: No, we didn't climb. We just picked them up from the ground as it fell, yeah.

GG: I see. And what kind of bags did you put them in.

CF: Regular gunny sacks. You know, I don't know how they get 'em but my dad would get some of 'em and all the people would get theirs. And, all of us kids--that's how we made our money for our books.

GG: Would you do this everyday after school or during the season?

CF: Everyday after school. As long as there were beans on the trees.

GG: I see. And, approximately how long did you pick up beans?

CF: Oh, we did it for several months.

GG: Well, I meant, too, for an hour a day?

CF: Oh, would be about two hours, I think.

GG: And, how big a bag or how full would the bags be at the end of two hours?

CF: Well, I would think we would have about almost 50 pounds.

GG: And then, how did you sell them to the...

CF: Well, they would come over.

GG: To pick it up.

CF: They would come ova and they would weigh it and they'd give my mom or dad money and whatever it was and then, you know, it wasn't too much. But, they would give so much a pound. So many cents a pound?

GG: Hm. Do you have any idea how much you'd get for a 50 pound bag?

CF: No, I have no idea.

GG: You don't recall.

CF: But, it was enough money to pay for our books and of course the people there at that time used to make their own children's clothes. (Algaroba beans helped pay for fabric too) My mother used to make our clothes, you know. And my trousers and my shirts and my sister's dresses. Enough money to buy the material. 'Cause most of the people sew their own.

GG: Yeah, do you know where she bought her material from?

CF: No.

GG: And then, now, what did you feed the rabbits you had mentioned that you...

CF: Well, we'd feed them at the time with, I don't know what they call it, but we used to call it milkweed. You know, Hawaiians they used to call it <u>pualelé</u> And there was quite a bit around, you know. All that empty lots around there. Feed the rabbits with that.

GG: And how did you go and--did you pull it or cut it?

CF: We'd pull it out. Pull it out of the ground. It grew just like weeds, you know.

GG: And would you get enough of that to last for a week or everyday?

CF: Yes. Well, no, every other day or something like that.

GG: Every other day. Oh. And, how many rabbits did you have?

CF: Oh, had about I'd say about 15 to 20.

GG: And did you folks raise those for eating?

CF: Well, it started off as a pet, for me. (Laughs)

(GG laughs)

CF: And then it became, well, it came time for the table, my dad would cook it. My mother would make stew.

GG: Did it bother you?

CF: No.

GG: You knew that they would be raised for food?

CF: Yeah, when they were grown up. Yeah.

GG: Right. Okay, now, how many of you again did you say there was in the family?

CF: Well, there was two boys and five girls.

GG: So, that's seven children and then your parents were nine.

CF: Yeah. Yeah. Of course, my dad was married twice. His first wife, he had four boys and a girl. But, they lived part of the time with us, you know.

CF: My half-brothers.

GG: ...step-sisters a whole separate family then?

CF: Yeah. Uh huh.

GG: So, you actually had 12 children...

CF: Uh huh. My dad.

GG: ...from your father.

CF: Yeah. My father.

GG: Your father had 12 children. How did you all fit in the house?

CF: Well, we had bunks all over the place, you know. Living room. (Laughs) We had a, sort of a three-bedroom house. And, we had bunks all over. The boys slept on one side. The girls slept on the other.

GG: And then did you have a big kitchen area?

CF: Yes. Very big kitchen.

GG: Did you have to eat in shifts or did you all sit at the table?

CF: No, no. We all sat down together.

GG: Ah. And then, how much of the time, did say your half-sisters and brothers live with you?

CF: Pardon?

GG: Your father's other children. Did they stay with you for a long time?

CF: No, no, no. They would come over for weekends.

GG: That's interesting that way back then that your father had two wives.

CF: Yeah, yeah.

(GG laughs)

GG: Was that unusual for Catholics at that time?

CF: It was. It was. But then, my mom and dad, I imagine, I really don't know too much about it because I was quite young yet. They were much older than we were. And, they were remarried in a Catholic church. Of course, like, you know, my dad, that is, I can't explain how I got the name of Frazier. That is, I don't know the full story of it. That, as I say, my older brothers, half-brothers were much older. And, my dad's name was Ferraz. You see.

GG: Hm. That's Portuguese?

CF: Yeah, it's spelt F-E-R-R-A-Z. Now, I don't know. They claim it's Portuguese. Some claim it's a French name or something. But, seems like in the First World War, one of my oldest half-brothers, two of them were in the marine corps. And, for some reason they had their name changed, translated, changed somehow, you know. And it became Frazier. And, I don't know, all us younger kids all came out in the name of Frazier. But, my dad always kept Ferraz. Yeah.

Although lot of people know him by Frazier. Yeah. So, so I've been with the name of Frazier. (Laughs)

GG: Almost since you can remember, hm? (Laughs) Okay now, you mentioned that you liked poi. Did you folks eat poi regularly?

CF: Well, yeah. My mom would, well, I would say about maybe every two weeks, she would buy bag of poi and we'd eat it with--she'd make stew.

GG: Hm.

CF: Yeah, we ate stew and the poi. You know us Portuguese they used to cook an awful lot of food. (Laughs)

GG: Oh, right. And, with that big a family, you'd have to.

CF: And, so, that's the way we ate poi.

GG: And, that was from the time you were small.

CF: Yeah, small.

GG: So, your, I can't remember now, your parents were first generation from Portugal or they were second generation?

CF: No, no. My dad came here. My mom was born here. She was born in Maui. Her parents came from Madeira. And, my dad came from Madeira. And, I think he says he was about 19 years old when he left.

GG: So, your mother, had she grown up eating poi then?

CF: Oh, yeah.

GG: I guess, the reason I'm asking is, since it's a Hawaiian food I wondered, you know.

CF: Yeah, yeah. See, my mother was born in Maui, raised in Kona. And then, finished up rest of her life down in Honolulu. But, she was brought up on poi, too, you know.

GG: Did she, when you were little kids, now, do you remember eating primarily Portuguese-style cooking?

CF: Oh, yeah, yeah. Very much.

GG: ...or what about, did you ever have Japanese food other than the sushi?

CF: No, no, no. We had all the, my mother cooked all those Portuguese soups stuff like that. Portuguese bread.

GG: Did she make her own bread?

CF: She baked her own bread.

GG: Yeah. In an outside oven or inside oven?

CF: No, inside oven. Stove that was heated up with wood, you know. That was one of my jobs, too, to eventually cut wood, you know, for the stove, you know.

GG: How did you get the wood?

CF: Well, we had these trees around. Kiawe trees around. And, we just--my dad would saw so many branches off and then we'd cut it off in small pieces. It was nothing but kiawe treees all over the place.

GG: And anybody could get any place?

CF: Oh, yeah.

GG: There were no regulations about these kiawes are on my property?

CF: No, no. You see, owned by big estates and it wasn't used. It was all just empty space there.

GG: Yeah. Okay. You have talked a little about the Bell Theatre closing last time, too. Do you remember why it closed?

CF: No, see, when Calhau built the Aloha Theatre--these people felt that one theatre wasn't enough so, they get together and, I don't know who they were, but people from down that area, I think. And, mostly Portuguese I believe. They get together and formed a hui and put up the Bell Theatre. But, it last a few years. And then, it closed. I would say, it must have last about three to four years, you know. Then, it closed down.

GG: Do you remember off-hand when it closed?

CF: No.

GG: Approximately?

CF: I would say in about the 1920's.

GG: Did you ever go to the movies there?

CF: Yeah. Yes, we did.

GG: Very often?

CF No, no. My dad--we take turns. My dad would--only on a Friday night, because no school the next day. And, say my brother and I and one sister would go one Friday. The following Friday, he's take the other girls. Then, it come back to us again, you know. We all take turns. We all didn't go together.

GG: And, when your father took you now, did he stay at the theatre with you and watch the movie, too?

CF: Oh, yeah. Yeah. He loved it.

(GG laughs)

GG: Were those silent movies?

CF: Silent. All silent movies. Charlie Chaplin. (Laughs)

GG: And, did a lot of people go to the theatre?

CF: Yeah, the people did. You know. And, the people of the area, that is Kakaako-Kewalo area, all did, you know. They had their own theatre to go to, you know. Some of them would go to the Aloha Theatre which was the picture that they like to see. And some would go to Bell. Then, if people went Bell Theatre tonight maybe in couple nights after, they go to the Aloha Theatre because they had a better picture there, you know. And they used to put all this posters out, you know, and you'd come out and look at the posters. "Oh, this is better than the other one." That's the way it was.

GG: And did all nationalities go to the pictures?

CF: Yeah. Yeah. All nationalities.

GG: Since it's silent. Did they have like sub-titles?

CF: Yeah, they had sub-titles.

GG: Okay. Do you remember any other movies? You mentioned Charlie Chaplin. Do you remember any of the other?

CF: Yeah, I remembered Eddie Polo and the Bull's Eye. (Laughs) Tom Mix.

(GG and CF laugh)

CF: Of course, those things are--Hoot Gibson, you know.

GG: Yeah. And what would you wear to the movies? What kind of clothes?

CF: Well, you see, in those days the boys--well, I'm going back, way back,

when I was a kid--we didn't wear long pants, you know. We would just wear this short trousers. But, we always put on a jacket in the evening.

GG: What kind of jackets did you use?

CF: Well, mom would buy, wasn't a woolen jacket. Was cloth jackets or something like that.

GG: And what kind of shirts did you boys wear?

CF: Regular--I don't know--just plain shirt, you know.

GG: Were they kind of like what they call, I guess, dress shirts now?

CF: Yeah, I would think so. Yeah. Because I can remember now, you know, you talking about a shirt. You know, they have shirts now with the big collars. And, that's what we used to use when we were kids. You know, the big collars...

GG: The wide collars. Yeah.

CF: Yeah.

GG: Were they white or plain color?

CF: Well, my mother used to buy it different. Used to buy white material, blue material, red. Solid colors. All solid.

GG: That's what I wanted.

CF: Yeah, all solid colors.

GG: Not like aloha shirts or prints?

CF: No, no.

GG: They were all solid.

CF: All solid colors.

GG: And what about the shorts that you folks wore. Were they a different kind, heavier material?

CF: Well, it was all khaki. Blue denims.

GG: Hm. And then, now, you went bare-foot to school?

CF: Yeah.

GG: And, even to Saint Louis?

CF: No, no. Saint Louis I had to wear shoes.

GG: Oh, you did have to? From the time you were small?

CF: Yeah. When I went to public school, I wear slippers, you know. We would go with slippers. Most of the kids would go bare-footed, you know. We used to run around bare-footed anyway in those days. But, Saint Louis you had to wear shoes.

GG: Did you have to wear long pants to Saint Louis?

CF: Yeah. I had to wear long pants and shoes and the necktie. Yeah, you had to have a necktie. If you came to school without necktie the Brothers (Catholic Church Brothers) all had a little strip of gunny sack. You had no necktie, so they'd put it on. Yeah. You remember to bring your necktie the next day.

(GG laughs)

GG: What about the girls now. Do you remember what kind of clothes or dresses they had?

CF: Well, my sisters, when they were going to school, my mother all made solid--all solid clothes. See, if she bought red material, she'd make red dresses and I'd have a red shirt, see. Couple of red shirts. Bought blue material, well, they'd have blue, and I had a blue shirts, you know.

GG: Do you remember what the dresses looked like at all? Were they long or short?

CF: Well, they were long, yeah.

GG: All the way to the floor? (Laughs)

CF: No, no, no, no, no. Not down...

GG: Sort of calf-length.

CF: I would say about half way, yeah?

GG: Okay, and, now when you got to the age where perhaps you started getting interested in girls, what were the patterns of dating at that time? How did you get to know a girl well enough to get married. (Laughs)

CF: To begin with, as you grew up, you know, this Holy Ghost is a very big thing in your neighborhood say. And, well, all the girls put their best dresses on. And they'd have parties at night, like singing and music, dancing. And that teen-agers would get on. That's how they would meet one another. They would go to Kakaako,

Punchbowl, Kalihi and all that. And, then we'd make a date, you know. Take a streetcar ride up to Kapiolani Park. (Laughs) The famous Sunday out. Or on a Saturday we'd make a date, go to the Empire Theatre or the Bijou Theatre which is Hawaii Theatre today. And then, that's where we would pass our time.

GG: And, were the girls allowed to go with you alone on a streetcar or did another sister or mother...

CF: Well, during the day, it made no difference, to the parents. But, say, if I was to, at that time there, if I was to ask a girl to go to Kapiolani Park, well, I have to go to the house. And the mother and father would have to see me. You know, they would look me over and see what type of...

GG: To see whether you were suitable.

CF: ...type of a boy I was, you know. How I dressed and... But, of course, like if you dated a girl in the neighborhood, well, the parents all know one another. But, I know I met a few girls up at Punchbowl and I had to go up and face the mom and dads. (Laughs)

GG: Did you pass the test? (Laughs)

(CF laughs)

CF: Yeah, they look at me. Well, my dad and mom was very strict. They brought us up--we had to respect older people.

GG: And then, was there a normal courtship pattern or passage of time before you got married or usually how long did a girl and a boy know each other or did it matter?

CF: Well, I don't think it mattered. That is, those days, my time, you went with a girl quite a while before you decided to talk about marriage. And, I know when I first married, I courted my wife about almost two years before made up my mind to get married.

GG: And, how old were you when you did get married?

CF: How old I was? My first marriage, I was 28.

GG: I see. Wow. Was that unusual to wait so long?

CF: It was. Yeah.

GG: Yeah? And what about your wife, how old was she?

CF: Well, my wife was 10 years younger than I was.

GG: I see. And was 18 sort of average for girls--Portuguese girls--to get married?

CF: Yeah, yeah. Eighteen. Eighteen or twenty. Yeah.

GG: Okay. You talked last time, too, about, I think you put it, your gang --you would get together with your gang after school and do things after your chores were done.

CF: Uhm.

GG: Um, can you tell me more about that gang. Was that just a group of friends?

CF: Well, it was boys in the neighborhood. That is, in the area. It was boys in the area. And, we'd have to come out and play like we gonna play baseball, something like that. So I says, "Well, I have my chores to do." You know. So they says, "Well, we'll help you." So, they came in, we watered all the vegetables, you know. And, got enough of the milkweed to feed the rabbits. It was all done.

GG: And, how many guys did this involve?

CF: Oh, I'd say about 10, 12. Boys.

GG: And were there, say, different gangs in different two or three block areas?

CF: Well, they were in a two-block area, I would say. Two-block area.

GG: But then maybe, two or three blocks down the street there might be another gang that hangs out?

CF: Well, there was another gang. We were friendly, you know. And, as we grew up older, that is we got a little older, we mingled. And, we form one bunch of baseball players and the other form, play baseball. We play a little football,or something like that. It was all in the empty lots, so you know, the only park we had was Atkinson Park. That was way down at Pohukaina School.

GG: And so, but, as you were younger up to about say, 10, 12 years old, they you mostly mingled with the boys right in your two-block area.

CF: Two-block area. Yeah.

GG: And how much older were you when you started mingling with ones that were further away?

CF: Well, I would say about... I say about 14, 13, 14... when I began to go further out. Of course, we always had to get permission from our parents before we leave the area. You know, we couldn't leave the area without notifying them.

GG: Right. Okay. You also mentioned that you occasionally went to the bon dances. Is that correct?

CF: Yeah.

GG: Can you tell me as a Portuguese observing this Japanese festival, what your feelings were or what you thought of it?

CF: Well, we thought it was interesting, you know. I used to enjoy it because I like the rhythm. The different types, different songs. And the rhythm. In fact, all the people used to get out, watch it, you know. And it was beautiful the costumes that they used. The kimonos and all that. And, lot of people that wasn't Japanese would get in.

GG: And do the dancing, too?

CF: Yeah, do the dancing. Yeah. And, it was very interesting. Very nice. But, they would have it every night, you know, for, I don't know how the season runs. But, it was very interesting.

GG: Where did they hold the bon dances?

CF: Well, at the time, it was only one place there that they held it. And it was a Japanese school grounds, somewhere near the Magoon Block. In that area, you know...there was a Japanese school. They held it in the school grounds. That was the only place it's held.

GG: Okay. Oh, you mentioned also that the kids had played at the lumberyard. Was there a reason?

CF: Yeah. See, where we live on Kawaiahao Street, it was the Allen and Robinson Lumberyard. It was great big lumberyard. And, see, the houses were on one side of the street. The lumberyard was on the other side of the street. And, we played there because there was lumber all over the place. And, the girls would play house. They would have--they have homes under the lumber. I guess it was kind of dangerous, too. If the lumber would fall or something like that. But, we always managed to pick a place where the lumber wasn't too high. And, the boys played hide-and-seek. Cowboys and Indians and stuff like that. Run around the piles of lumber and all that.

(GG laughs)

CF: And, they also have the sawmill there, and there was a lot of sawdust. We used to play out in the sawdust. And, of course, when it rained it flooded. The place was flooded, so the people in the lumberyard they would have a couple of boards and we row ourselves down...

(GG laughs)

GG: Make a raft, eh?

CF: We make a raft-like and...

GG: They didn't--the owners then, or the workers there--didn't get upset because you kids were always playing there?

CF: Nah, no, no. They were nice people, you know.

GG: It wasn't, evidently must not have been too dangerous then?

CF: Well, where we were at, it wasn't too dangerous. Yeah. But, the only time we'd--we would have to stay away from it was, hard wind. Because then the lumber were getting loose and boards would be flying around. That's the only time they wouldn't allow us in.

GG: And your parents had no objections to your playing there?

CF: Well, as long as we played right in the area where they could spot us. We couldn't go farther up near the end of the lumberyard because it was too dangerous.

GG: And the sawmill was back aways too, and you kept away from that?

CF: Right.

GG: What did you play in the sawdust or what did you do with that?

CF: Oh, we play all kine. Get wrestle around there. Tumble over. Jump all over it. (Laughs)

GG: Get sawdust all over you?

CF: But was fun, but.

(GG laughs)

GG: Okay, you mentioned dancing and I have a few questions on that. You talked about dances at the Knights of Columbus. Was there a hall there?

CF: There was a hall.

GG: I see. And, who sponsored those dances?

CF: Well, you see, the Knights of Columbus was where the parking lot is now. Right--at the Cathedral. Fort Street. The Knights of Columbus building was there. And, they had several other clubs in there and meeting halls and all that. They had a dance hall. And, the different parishes--Catholic parishes--would give a dance. Like say, now, all us young teen-agers at Saint Agnes--that's the church down

at--(Kakaako) we'd get together and we'd sponsor a dance. And the people around there would buy tickets. We had it for different occasions like--our money was for Christmas party, for the children around the neighborhood or something like that. And, we'd all buy tickets. We'd all go to the dances at the Knights of Columbus. And, Churches up Kalihi, Kaimuki would do the same thing.

GG: How much did tickets for the dance cost?

CF: I think was 50 cents.

GG: Hm. And, did you perhaps take a girl, or did you go with a bunch of boyfriends?

CF: Well, sometimes we go with boyfriends and boys and girls all get together and we'd all walk downtown and go to the dance and walk back home.

GG: Now, did you dress differently, say for the dances than you did for school?

CF: Well, yeah. We had to dress little different. We didn't have to wear any coats or anything like that. We wear shirt and necktie and nice trousers.

GG: Did you wear shoes to the dances?

CF: Shoes. Yeah.

GG: Hm. And, what kind of dancing did you do?

CF: Well, we danced the--well, at this time, we had waltz, the fox-trot, the camel walk, Charleston. (Laughs)

GG: And, who played the music for the dance?

CF: Well, we used to have different boys, you know, get together, play the music.

GG: Were any of them from Kakaako? Some of the boys?

CF: Well, when we'd give a dance, we'd get the boys from our area, you know. That is, knew how to play. Just enough to play enough songs to dance. They'd play the same songs over and over.

(GG laughs)

GG: What kind of musical instruments did...

CF: Well, they had ukeleles, guitars. That's about all. Piano, maybe.

GG: And, did you play music with them?

CF: No.

GG: You just went and danced, huh?

CF: Yeah.

GG: Okay, how did you learn to dance?

CF: I learned with my sisters. My older sisters. And, they used to go out to dancing with their boyfriends and all that. And, we had an old phonograph. My two older sisters would teach, taught me how to dance because I start going out dancing and they just taught me how to. So, I learn to waltz, the fox-trot, the camel walk.

GG: And, in those days, if you took a girl to a dance, did you ever give her flowers or a lei?

CF: Well, in most cases, we made our own leis. (Laughs)

GG: Hm.

CF: We had some kind of a flower. It looks like an orchid. I don't know what they call it now. It's small, you know. It's a purple flower and it grows on a vine.

GG: Not the bougainvillea.

CF: No, not the bougainvillea. It's small, little flower. It's all purple. I know at the time it was all purple. And, it grows on a vine. Great, big vine. Practically everybody had that vine, you know. So, we'd make leis out of that.

GG: And, you boys made your own leis, you didn't depend on your sisters or your mothers?

CF: Yes, some of us made. I made my own leis. I made my own leis.

GG: Yeah. And, how did you learn to do that?

CF: I just learned. Just got needle and thread and, pardon me, and... well, when I'd make my own I'd make a double, you know. (Laughs) I wanted my girlfriend to have a good lei.

(GG laughs)

GG: Was it customary then, if you went to, like, the church dances to give the girl that you took a lei...

CF: No, no.

GG: ... or some people did?

CF: Most of the boys...yeah, some did. Some did, you know. And, the girls all appreciate it because they like to have the leis, you know.

GG: Hm. Okay, another area you talked a little bit about going to Honolulu Business College. Now, do you remember approximately what year this was?

CF: Gee, I'd have to go back far, 19--, early 1920's. I didn't stay too long there. I was mostly--

GG: Where was it located?

CF: Fort Street. Right across the Cathedral, upstairs. I attended mostly the YMCA School.

GG: This was because you had already gone to work at the newspaper and your father wanted you to continue school, right?

CF: Yeah, yeah.

GG: Do you remember what kind of classes you took?

CF: Lessons? Arithmetic. Spelling. That was most important thing. Grammar.

GG: That was at the YM--

CF: YMCA.

GG: Yeah. Okay now, but when you went to Honolulu Business College, that was after....

CF: Yeah. After the YMCA.

GG: And what kind of classes?

CF: I took arithmetic there.

GG: Was this, when you say arithmetic, do you mean sort of like accounting or regular basic math?

CF: Well, regular basic math. Uhm. And then, I was more interested in grammar, too.

GG: Were there other young men or women from Kakaako that were taking classes at the "Y" or the Honolulu Business College same time as you were?

CF: No, not that I-- No. They was all strangers to me.

GG: Hm. Okay. If you don't mind talking about it, how did you meet your first wife or how did you...

CF: My first wife? A friend of mine that I was working with. He had a girlfriend. And, his girlfriend lived close to this girl, this particular girl. And, so he came and picked me up one night and picked his girlfriend up. And then, she say, "Well, I have a girlfriend that I like you to meet," you know, "and someday we'll go out." I says, "Okay." So, she made the arrangements with this girl. And, this friend of mine told me, "Well, I'll pick you up. I'll pick my girlfriend and I'll pick this girl up, I'll pick you up," you know. And, we go out to a show. A dance or something. And, that's how I met her. It was a blind date, see. And, we didn't go seriously at the beginning. I met her the following weekend on a Saturday. This friend of mine picked his girlfriend, picked her up, picked me up, you know. And this went on for about three weeks. And then, we start meeting. She lives in Kaimuki, I lived in Kaimuki, see.

GG: Oh, I see. You were already up at Kaimuki, then.

CF: Yeah. And so, we start meeting in the evening and going to the Kaimuki Theatre. And then, we became serious.

GG: Okay. Going back to now, when you worked at the newspaper, were there any other people from Kakaako that were working at the newspaper at that time?

CF: Yeah. That's how I got the job. Martin family, this Martin family lives across the street from us. And their boy had--he's about a couple of years older than I was--and he had left school early, too, to go to work. And, I was coming home from school one day and I was fascinated in the printing, stopped there everyday and look at it. Talk to him, you know. So he says, "You want to work? I going to be promoted." I was 15 years old. I say, "Yeah, I like to." So, he took me in to the superintendent, says, (who) "Well, if your mom and dad gives you permission to work, we'll hire you." So, I went to work.

GG: Were there any other people there from Kakaako that you got to know, too?

CF: No. This was the only one.

GG: That one. Now, as you got older, did you help anyone to get a job there at the newspaper, say from Kakaako?

CF: No.

GG: Any of your friends?

CF: None of them were interested. None of them came up to me and ask me, so.

GG: Oh. Okay. Also, you had talked about a Jungle League. That was baseball?

CF: Yeah. Jungle League. Yeah.

GG: Do you know who sponsored that league? We haven't heard much about it, so.

CF: Yeah. I think it was sponsored by the City, Parks and Playground. I believe it was.

GG: Do you know what age group was playing in the Jungle League?

CF: Well, I would say about--I would say the age group--the highest, I think, about 18. 18 years old, I think it was.

GG: So, like maybe 16 to 18 years old.

CF: 16 or 17, 18 years old.

GG: And, this was in Kakaako. Did Kakaako have a Jungle League team?

CF: Well, no. This Jungle League team, I was playing for some other section, Makiki area, I think...

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

(GG makes tape adjustments)

GG: Okay, you were talking about, this Jungle League, then, was in Makiki?

CF: No, ah, was a Jungle League. It wasn't too big of a league probably. But, the best known league is sponsored by the Parks and Playground; it's called a Paradise League. That, all the different sections came in, you know. Like Punchbowl, Kalihi, Kakaako. They all participated in the Paradise League.

GG: Was that softball or hardball?

CF: No, no. That was regular hardball. And then, another popular league with all the Catholic parishes, you see, called the...

GG: Was that the CYO?

CF: Well, it was before the CYO. Before the CYO.

GG: Do you remember what it was called before?

CF: I can't think.

GG: What about the Latter Day Saints? Do you remember--they evidently had quite a sports league going, too.

CF: Latter Day Saints?

GG: The Mormon Church? I wondered if say, the Catholic Church teams ever played the Mormon Church teams?

CF: No, not that I can remember. See, in the Catholic league, there was only known as a parish, like Saint Agnes. Saint Patrick's. You know, Saint John's or something like that. I guess there was a lot of non-Catholics playing, too.

GG: But now, when you played with the Jungle League, you were still living in Kakaako. Is that right?

CF: Yeah.

GG: But, that was for a Makiki team?

CF: Yeah, some Makiki boys. Yeah. Uhm.

GG: Hm. Where did the team practice? Do you remember?

CF: Makiki field.

GG: I see. And, how did you happen to get asked to play with them?

CF: Well, I knew some friends and they ask me to come in but we were quite young yet. Yeah. But, I don't know what happened to 'em.

GG: Approximately how old were you then?

CF: About 17.

GG: And, was the coach of that team from the Makiki area?

CF: Well, it was one of the boys, you know. (Laughs) See, this team is the boys get together and well, you'd play here, you play there, you know. You had no uniform. And, now, we'll appoint this fellow here just for, he handle us. And, that's the way it worked.

GG: And then, how did you know what other teams you would play? Who did you schedule it...

CF: Well, they would meet. They would all play in the same field. And they had a schedule made out. So, how they arrange it, I have no part of it.

GG: Yeah, yeah. Okay, you had mentioned Boy Scouts in Kakaako, too. Were you ever a Boy Scout yourself?

CF: Well, there is this Boy Scout troup that I belonged to was the Catholic Boy Scout Troup. And, we had our meetings at the Knights of Columbus. And, I believe there was, I 'm not sure, but I believe there was a Boy Scout troup at the Kakaako Mission. I'm not positive about it, though. But, when I belong to the Boy Scouts, it was a Catholic troup like. The--Knights of Columbus room.

GG: How old were you at that time?

CF: I would think about 12, 13, 14.

GG: And, how did you happen to get into the Boy Scouts?

CF: Well, the scoutmaster lived in the area. A fella by the name of Arthur Duke. And, he was the scoutmaster of the troup. And, he rounded up some of us boys around the area to get into the troup.

GG: How many boys were in the troup? Do you remember?

CF: I would think about--must of had about 30. Quite a bunch. A real, big bunch. But, they were from all different areas. See, they weren't all from Kakaako.

GG: And, where did you have your meetings?

CF: At the Knights of Columbus.

GG: Knights of Columbus. That was on the Fort Street.

CF: Fort Street.

GG: Yeah. But, were most of the boys from Kakaako?

CF: No, there must have been about three or four of us.

GG: I see. What was the nationality of the other boys?

CF: Ah, well, two of them was Hawaiian. One boy...

GG: The other two from Kakaako?

CF: Yeah, there was two boys. And, there was myself and another Portuguese boy.

GG: Hm. Did you have uniforms for Boy Scouts?

CF: Yeah, we get. Uhuh.

GG: And, do you remember what kinds of things you did together?

CF: Well, we participated in making knots. We'd go over there and learn how to tie up different knots. We'd go out on a hike up--at that time--we used to go up mostly up the Diamond Head area and hike up there. The boys would take some food. Cook all the food and all that. It wasn't--at the time, it wasn't as active as it is today.

GG: Yeah. Did you enjoy the experience?

CF: Well, I enjoyed it for awhile. Then, I got tired. And, I dropped out.

GG: How long did you stay in?

CF: Oh, about a year.

GG: Hm. (Laughs)

(CF laughs)

CF: It wasn't enough action for me.

GG: Okay. Do you have any other recollections of say, Kakaako Mission? You talked, I think it was off the tape, but weren't you involved there to a degree, too, at Kakaako Mission? They had sports...

CF: No, I just go there. This when I used to go to Kakaako Mission I was quite young yet, you know, I was quite small. And, we just play games around, you know, in the hall there. That's about all.

GG: Not too much activities.

CF: But, the woman was very nice woman.

GG: Mrs. Knot?

CF: And, I give you a name. Mrs. Knott. Very nice woman. Wonderful woman. I can't recall her husband. I just can't picture him at all. I don't know.

GG: And, back to Saint Agnes now, do you have any idea how large the parish was or how many people attended Saint Agnes Church?

CF: Well, you see, Saint Agnes Church, they have about, I think two masses. And it would be enough for the whole area. Every Sunday they have--and then, weekdays they'd have one mass. And, I used to be an altar boy.

GG: What time were the masses on Sunday?

CF: Seven o' clock, during the Sundays, [mornings] was 6, 7 and 8, I think. 6 or 7. Something like that. But, during the day, it was--weekdays--it was seven o' clock.

GG: And did you serve mass as an altar boy daily...

CF: Everyday.

GG: Were you close to...

CF: Yeah, two blocks away from the church. I started to serve mass when I was seven and I stopped when I was about 11, I think. 11 or 12.

GG: That was a long time. (Laughs) Getting up early every morning.

CF: Yeah.

GG: What time did you usually go to bed at night?

CF: Oh, well, we had to go to bed early. Nine o' clock. At least nine o' clock we should be in bed. We would be--

GG: Long day, then, with school and serving mass and your chores and play hard and... (Laughs) Okay, the people that attended Saint Agnes now, were they mostly Portuguese or were there other nationalities, too?

CF: Well, there was lot of Hawaiians. The biggest majority, I think, was Portuguese, Hawaiians. And then, the Filipinos.

GG: Were there any Orientals at all?

CF: I can't recall, you know.

GG: Were there very many Filipinos?

CF: Well, there were in the Kakaako area, you know, way down--let's say--I would say down at Magoon Block. In that area, was quite a few. There was quite a few of them Catholics.

CF: You know, this Hosoi Mortuary?

GG: Uhm.

CF: Well, that family is from Kakaako.

GG: Hm. I think I had heard that before.

CF: Yeah, they from Kakaako. They Kakaako family.

GG: Is there anything else about Kakaako that I haven't asked you

about that you'd like to tell us about?

CF: Well, we talked about Magoon Block and Kumalae Block theatres. I guess we covered...

GG: Covered a lot. Did you ever attend the Japanese schools when they would have their programs, you know, demonstrating the samurai...

CF: No.

GG: ...or they had wrestling. From what I understand they had sumo wrestling once in awhile. Did you ever go to that?

CF: No, no.

GG: Boxing matches. Did you ever go the boxing matches?

CF: Well, they had, you know, in the Kewalo Club. They used to have boxing matches. And then, mostly for the grown up people, you know. But, us kids used to get in. They used to let us kids in. And, we used to see some of the boxing matches there.

GG: Did they charge you?

CF: No.

GG: You kind of snuck in? (Laughs)

CF: They would charge the older people but they wouldn't charge us. But, at the time, boxing was outlawed,too, you know.

GG: Oh, that's right. It was for awhile.

CF: So, it was only club members. See?

GG: Yeah. Okay, I think there's one other think I wanted to ask you about. When you talked about your early job or, you know, once you had started at the newspaper. And, I think I had asked you what kind of things that you had to do when you first started, and you said something about "bring the ice." And, I wondered what did you mean by that?

CF: What was that?

GG: Ah, when I was asking you about, you know, what kind of work you had to do in the beginning, when you first started at the newspaper. And, here, it says--okay, they didn't have a training program. And, you'd clean up the machines and sweep the floor and "bring the ice."

CF: Yeah.

GG: What does that mean?

CF: Well, you see, they would, I don't know, great big chunk of ice out. There was no coolers, you know. There's no electric coolers like we have now. They're big chunk. And, my job was to go there, cut it up. And, we had this coolers around the shop, you know, we'd put the ice in there. There's faucets running...

GG: Oh, so, for drinking water?

CF: Yeah, for drinking water. You know what? I would--I ran across an article. I should have brought it. But, anyway, when I retired they had a story about me. You know, about my work and 50 years of work and all that. And, I didn't think it was interesting enough to bring it here, but it says about the different things that happened. But, it's not concerned about Kakaako, you see.

GG: But, it's still connected with you and your work and we would be interested in that. So, perhaps if you could--when I come to bring the other transcripts to you.

CF: Yeah, well, I'll give it to you then.

GG: I'd like to make a copy of it, if that's all right, to add in the record.

CF: You might be able to get something out of it. (Laughs)

(GG laughs)

GG: Well, especially if it talks about your job and, you know, the changes over the years.

CF: Yeah, it's all about the changes and all that. What happened during the years that I worked and all that.

GG: That sounds good. Right. Okay. Well, I think we're finished today, then.

END OF INTERVIEW.

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